

CLAIMS:

1. A tracking system for receiving images from a plurality of cameras, each at one of a plurality of locations at which one or more of a plurality of movable subjects or items may be located, each of said cameras being arranged to capture images at said respective location, the system comprising a plurality of remote access points, each of which is allotted to a different one or subset of said plurality of movable subjects or items, from each of which remote access points images of the movable subject or item to which it is allotted captured by said plurality of cameras can be viewed in real time or near-real time and/or recorded, and locating apparatus for determining a first location of a movable subject or item, selecting a first camera at said first location and linking the output of said first camera to the remote access point allotted to the said movable subject or item, and for determining when the said movable subject or item moves from said first location to a second location, selecting a second camera at said second location and linking the output of said second camera to the remote access point allotted to the said movable subject or item.
2. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein when a remote access point is accessed, the locating apparatus is arranged to search the images being captured by said cameras to determine the locations of the subjects or items to which said remote access point is allotted.
3. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein said locating apparatus is arranged to track the movable subjects or items and selectively link the outputs of the appropriate cameras to the respective remote access points allotted thereto, irrespective of whether or not said remote access points are being accessed.
4. A tracking system according to claim 1, comprising a central database containing details of a plurality of subjects or items of interest together with their respective allotted remote access points, and/or details of said cameras together with their respective locations.

5. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein said locating apparatus is arranged to determine the location of a subject or item by identifying a visually recognisable feature thereof in the images captured by said cameras.
6. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein said subject or item of interest is provided with an electronic tag, and said locating apparatus is arranged to determine the location of the subject or item of interest by determining the location of the electronic tag.
7. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein said locating apparatus is arranged to determine the location of said subject or item of interest and, in the event that there are two or more cameras associated with said location, link the outputs of said two or more cameras to said remote access point.
8. A tracking system according to claim 7, comprising selection apparatus for selecting to view one of said two or more outputs linked to said remote access point.
9. A tracking system according to claim 1, comprising apparatus for altering the field of view of the camera whose output is linked to said remote access point and/or comprising apparatus to provide a link to a selected area of modified level of detail of the view.
10. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein said remote access point is accessible only to one or more authorised users.
11. A tracking system according to claim 1, comprising recording apparatus for selectively recording the camera output or outputs linked to a remote access point.

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12. A tracking system according to claim 1, comprising alarm apparatus arranged to be actuated in the event that a subject or item of interest moves to a location outside a predetermined area.

13. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein a single remote access point can be used to track two or more subjects or items of interest.

14. A tracking system according to claim 1, comprising an attention controller arranged to monitor the outputs of said plurality of cameras, determine the presence in said outputs of one or more subjects or items of interest and link the camera output or outputs in which said subject(s) or item(s) are present to the respective remote access point(s) allotted to said subject(s) or item(s).

15. A tracking system according to claim 1, wherein in the event that two or more of said plurality of movable subjects or items to which two or more respective access points are allotted are determined by said locating apparatus to be at the same location, the output of the camera at that location can be linked to both or all of said two or more respective access points.

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